

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING MEETING
MAY 8, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE CALL

Unapproved Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Bob Brastrup	Chairman	Sue Austin	Board Member
Al Carruthers	Board Member	Jay Clark	Board Member
Mike Tatsey	Board Member	Mary Ogdahl	Board Member
Sam Murfitt	Executive Secretary	Carol Grell Morris	Legal Counsel
Marlys Stark	Administrative Assistant		

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Carlson, Bill Ogg, Tom Williams

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Brastrup called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with Members Austin, Carruthers, and Ogdahl present. Members Clark and Tatsey joined the meeting in progress at a later time.

2007 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Chairman Brastrup gave a quick summary of bills affecting the Board of Horse Racing during the 2007 Legislative Session. SB 4 which is the bill that officially appointed Chairman Brastrup and Members Ogdahl and Tatsey was passed. The only change for the other bills from the last report was that HB 390 (advance deposit wagering) and HB 616 (fantasy sports parimutuel wagering) were both signed into law by the Governor on May 3, 2007. The budget bill, including the one-time-only EPP (Executive Planning Process) request which is to be used to pay for some regulatory expenses for the tracks, did not pass during the 2007 regular session, but will be addressed during a special session beginning May 10, 2007.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

At the April conference call, the Board had agreed to pay Miles City's share of the new EPP funds by borrowing from purse money accounts, as the Miles City meet will occur in May, before the new 2008 fiscal year starts July 1st and makes the new EPP fund available. The purse account would then be reimbursed after July 1st, after the new EPP money is available. As no budget (including the Board's EPP request) was passed by the Legislature during the regular session, the Legislature's 2008 -2009 budget (when finally adopted) may or may not include those EPP funds, so the decision on borrowing in advance from the purse account needed to be revisited.

A motion was made by Member Carruthers to hold off on giving any EPP money to Miles City until the Legislature actually passes a Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget which includes those one-time-only EPP funds. Motion was seconded by member Clark and the motion carried.

PLANNING MEETING DISCUSSION:

Due to the 2007 Legislature's passage of new statutes creating three new programs under the Board's regulatory authority, the Board will need to meet in person and begin planning for the new programs. The Board needs to meet as soon as possible to discuss how they want to move forward with new rules and to prioritize in order to be the most efficient possible.

Member Carruthers made a motion that a tentative meeting date of June 9th be set as suggested by the Executive Secretary. No second was received and the motion was subsequently withdrawn.

After much discussion of possible dates and the urgency of the matter as well as the fact that there may be four new Board members for that meeting if the governor makes his appointments soon, **June 20, 2007**, in Helena was selected. The Board's agenda for the June 20th meeting will focus on prioritizing and future planning to map the future of horse racing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

In accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 2-3-103, the meeting was opened for public comment at this time. Chairman Brastrup read the open forum statement and the public was informed that they could have a short time for comment but that no action could be taken on any issue at this time.

Tom Williams from the Montana Breeder's Association suggested to the Board that one way for his organization to increase members would be to follow the example of at least one other racing jurisdiction and require every person that runs a horse in Montana to sign up as a member of the breeder association.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Executive Secretary Murfitt informed the Board that some discussion had been held with Miles City Bucking Horse Sale representatives on procedures to be followed for the first-ever parimutuel wagering on Match Bronc rides under the Board's newly adopted rules. The Executive Secretary was concerned that not all rules would be followed.

Member Carruthers made a motion, seconded by Member Clark that the rules for the match bronc pari-mutuel rides must be followed to the letter or not wagered on at all and that changes can be discussed and possibly made later, as previously agreed. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m. on a motion by Member Tatsey, seconded by Member Carruthers and passed unanimously.

Signature

Date